

**REMARKS**

In this Amendment, claims 184-192 have been added. No new matter has been entered. After entry of this Amendment, claims 123-192 will be pending in the application.


Claims 184-192 depend from one of independent claims 123, 142, or 159.

A Request for Continued Examination was filed on October 29, 2007, along with an Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS"). In the IDS, Applicants cite co-pending patent applications—previously not cited—that have at least one common inventor and a similar filing or priority date.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,  
Landry, et al.

ABBOTT SPINE  
Customer No.: 23492  
Telephone: (512) 533-1945  
Facsimile: (512) 597-4275

  
Michael Woods  
Registration No. 50,811  
Attorney for Applicants